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NSC BRIEFING

28 February 1956

INDONESIA

- I. Present middle-of-road Indonesian cabinet plans to assume caretaker status within next two weeks, when country's first elected parliament will be installed.
- II. Maneuvering over composition of successor cabinet continues among major non-Communist parties--Masjumi (which heads present cabinet), National Party (which leads opposition), and Nahdlatul Ulama (NU).
 - A. These three parties reportedly have agreed "in principle" to form tripartite coalition, but have not agreed either on program or on division of cabinet posts.
 - Masjumi, which suffered slump after running second in elections, appears to have regained some prestige through abrogation Netherlands-Indonesian Union (21 Feb).
 - Abrogation, combined with Masjumi endorsement of more nationalistic policies of party's astute vice chairman Sukiman (as contrasted to politically unskilled party chairman Natsir), reportedly lessening previous differences between Masjumi and other two parties.
- III. First formal effort toward formation new cabinet, therefore, probably will be attempt to form Masjumi-PNI-NU coalition.
 - A. Should these efforts be unsuccessful, the alternative of some PNI-NU-small party coalition will be explored and probably accepted.
 - 1. This would be return to so-called "Ali formula", which could involve Communist parliamentary support for coalition.

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AUTH: HR ZOO.
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IV. 257 elected seats in new parliament have been divided as follows:

A. PNI: 59 seats (23%)

B. Masjumi: 58 seats (22%)

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C. NU: 45 seats (17%): but NU "bloc" (known as "Moslem League", and including two minor Moslem parties) will have 57 seats (21%).

D. Communists: 39 seats (15%)

E. All others: 42 seats (16%)

- 1. Most deputies in this category probably will associate themselves with one of the four major parties, rather than form an independent bloc.
- V. Some 21 other deputies (who are to be appointed) have not yet been selected.
 - A. Procedure of selection, formerly hot issue between Sukarno and cabinet, also not yet decided.
 - B. Most probable outcome is amicable division of these extra seats among three non-Communist majors.

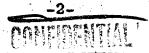
INDONESIA

- I. Present middle-of-road Indonesian cabinet plans to assume caretaker status within next two weeks, when country's first elected parliament will be installed.
- II. Maneuvering over composition of
 successor cabinet continues among three
 major non-Communist parties--Masjumi
 (which heads present cabinet), National
 Party (which leads opposition), and
 Nahdlatul Ulama (NU).
 - A. They reportedly have agreed "in principle" to form tripartite coallition.
 - 1. Have not yet approached such practical problems as government program, or division of cabinet posts.



- B. Masjumi, which suffered slump after running behind PNI in elections, appears to have regained some prestige through abrogation.

 Netherlands-Indonesian Union (21 Feb).
 - C. This action, combined with Masjumi endorsement of more nationalistic policies of party's astute vice chairman Sukiman (as contrasted to politically unskilled party chairman Natsir), reportedly lessening previous differences between Masjumi and other two parties.
- III. First formal effort at new cabinet,
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 Masjumi-PNI-NU coalition.
 - A. Should this fail, alternative of some PNI-NU-small party coalition will be explored, probably accepted.



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- B. This would be return to so-called
 "Ali formula", which could involve

 Communist parliamentary support for
 coalition.
- 1V. 257 elected seats in new parliament have been divided as follows:
 - A. PNI: 59 seats: minor parties' support adds 10 seats for total 69.
 - B. Masjumi: 58 seats: minor parties' support adds 25 seats for total 83.
 - C. NU: 45 seats: NU "bloc" (known as "Mo:lem League") adds 12 seats for total 57.
 - p. Communists: 39 seats: minor parties support adds 3 seats for total 42.
 - B. Other minor parties: 6 seats.
 - some 21 other deputies (who are to be appointed) have not yet been selected.

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- A. Procedure of selection, formerly hot issue between Sukarno and cabinet, also not yet decided.
- B. Most probable outcome is amicable division of these extra seats among three non-Communist majors.
- VI. Meanwhile, Vice President Hatta--strong anti-Communist and probably most informed and balanced individual in Indonesian government--has decided to resign.
 - A. Plans to combat Communism as private citizen, by means of "cooperative movement" which, under his own guidance, is spreading fairly rapidly in Indonesian villages.
 - B. Resignation removes a restraining, although decreasingly effective, influence on President Sukarno--who believes he can use Communists for his own political purposes, discard them as he thouses.

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5. Minors of Unknown Alignment

Police		٠	•	2
Sudjono				1
Baperki				1
Gerinda				1
Dayak				_1
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Parliamentary Breakdown by major parties (elected seats)

National Party	***	59
Masjumi	•	58
Nahdlatul Ulama		45
Communist Party		39
All Others		56
TOTAL		257